

What is claimed is:

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1. An absorbent article (40) configured for disposition within the vestibule (42) of a female wearer, the absorbent article comprising an absorbent (66), the absorbent having a principal longitudinal axis, a principal transverse axis, first (80) and second (82) spaced apart longitudinal sides, first (76) and second (78) spaced apart transverse end areas, the longitudinal sides together with the transverse end areas generally forming a periphery of the absorbent, and at least one notch (100) situated in at least one transverse end area.

10 2. The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the notch extends inward from the periphery of the absorbent.

15 3. The absorbent article of claim 2, wherein the notch has dimensions sufficient to allow the absorbent article to maintain a substantially spaced relationship from a female wearer's clitoris (60) when the absorbent article is disposed within the vestibule.

20 4. The absorbent article of claim 2, wherein the notch has a depth (102) no greater than about 30 mm; and wherein the notch has a width (104) no greater than about 30 mm.

25 5. The absorbent article of claim 2, wherein the notch has dimensions sufficient to allow the absorbent article to maintain a substantially spaced relationship from a female wearer's perineum (50) when the absorbent article is disposed within the vestibule.

6. The absorbent article of claim 1, further comprising a fluid permeable cover (62).

25 7. The absorbent article of claim 6, wherein the cover encloses the absorbent.

30 8. The absorbent article of claim 1, further comprising a liquid impermeable baffle (64).

30 9. The absorbent article of claim 8, further comprising a liquid impermeable baffle (64).

10. The absorbent article of claim 1, further comprising at least one notch situated in at least one longitudinal side.

11. The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the absorbent further comprises a 5 superabsorbent polymer.

12. An absorbent article (40) configured for disposition within the vestibule (42) of a female wearer, the absorbent article comprising an absorbent (66), the absorbent having a principal longitudinal axis, a principal transverse axis, first (80) and second (82) spaced apart 10 longitudinal sides, first (76) and second (78) spaced apart transverse end areas, the longitudinal sides together with the transverse end areas generally forming the periphery of the absorbent, and at least one notch (100) situated in the periphery of the absorbent.

13. The absorbent article of claim 12, wherein the notch extends inward from the 15 periphery of the absorbent.

14. The absorbent article of claim 13, wherein the notch has dimensions sufficient to allow the absorbent article to maintain a substantially spaced relationship from a female wearer's clitoris (60) when the absorbent article is disposed within the vestibule.

20 15. The absorbent article of claim 13, wherein the notch has a depth (102) no greater than about 30 mm; and wherein the notch has a width (104) no greater than about 30 mm.

16. The absorbent article of claim 13, wherein the notch has dimensions sufficient to 25 allow the absorbent article to maintain a substantially spaced relationship from a female wearer's perineum (50) when the absorbent article is disposed within the vestibule.

17. The absorbent article of claim 12, further comprising a fluid permeable cover (62).

30 18. The absorbent article of claim 17, wherein the cover encloses the absorbent.

19. The absorbent article of claim 12, further comprising a liquid impermeable baffle (64).

20. The absorbent article of claim 17, further comprising a liquid impermeable baffle (64).

21. The absorbent article of claim 13, wherein the notch is situated in at least one 5 longitudinal side.

22. The absorbent article of claim 13, wherein the notch is situated in a least one transverse end area.

10 23. The absorbent article of claim 12, wherein the absorbent further comprises a superabsorbent polymer.

15 24. An absorbent article (40) configured for disposition within the vestibule (42) of a female wearer, the absorbent article comprising an absorbent (66), the absorbent having a principal longitudinal axis, a principal transverse axis, first (80) and second (82) spaced apart longitudinal sides, first (76) and second (78) spaced apart transverse end areas, the longitudinal sides together with the transverse end areas generally forming the periphery of the absorbent article, and at least one notch (100) situated in at least one longitudinal side.

20 25. The absorbent article of claim 24, wherein the notch extends inward from the periphery of the absorbent.

25 26. The absorbent article of claim 25, wherein the notch has dimensions sufficient to allow the absorbent article to maintain a substantially spaced relationship from a female wearer's clitoris (60) when the absorbent article is disposed within the vestibule.

27. The absorbent article of claim 25, wherein the notch has a depth (102) no greater than about 30 mm; and wherein the notch has a width (104) no greater than about 30 mm.

30 28. The absorbent article of claim 25, wherein the notch has dimensions sufficient to allow the absorbent article to maintain a substantially spaced relationship from a female wearer's perineum (50) when the absorbent article is disposed within the vestibule.

29. The absorbent article of claim 24, further comprising a fluid permeable cover (62).

30. The absorbent article of claim 29, wherein the cover encloses the absorbent.
31. The absorbent article of claim 24, further comprising a liquid impermeable baffle
5 (64).
32. The absorbent article of claim 29, further comprising a liquid impermeable baffle
(64).
- 10 33. The absorbent article of claim 24, further comprising at least one notch situated in at least one transverse end area.
34. The absorbent article of claim 24, wherein the absorbent further comprises a superabsorbent polymer.